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Numerical Features of the Book of Proverbs

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Numerical Features of the Book of Proverbs

A New Approach to its Structural Design

Please read the [General Introduction](#)

מְשִׁיב דָּבָר בְּטָרָם יִשְׁמַע אֲנִי לֹא וְכִלְמָהּ: (18,13)

Dedicated to the memory of my esteemed and beloved tutor, Professor Berend Gemser

The Structural Design of the Book of Proverbs

Like the Psalter, the Book of Proverbs is a compilation of existing collections, to wit, wisdom sayings. Although the architecture of the book appears at first sight to be fairly straightforward seeing the seven headings, commentators have different views when it comes to defining the overall structure precisely.

Heading 1 (1,1): "The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel."

Heading 2 (10,1): "The proverbs of Solomon."

Heading 3 (22,17): "The words of the wise" (taken as a heading, as in the Septuagint).*

Heading 4 (24,23): "These also belong to the wise."

Heading 5 (25,1): "These also are proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah....copied."

Heading 6 (30,1): "The words of Agur, son of Jakeh of Massa."

Heading 7 (31,1): "The words of Lemuel, king of Massa, which his mother taught him."

* There is almost general agreement among commentators that the heading within 22,17 disrupts the first colon and is obviously out of place. Following the Septuagint, the words **דְּבָרֵי חֲכָמִים**, "Words of the wise", must be moved to the beginning of the verse as the heading, while the word **דְּבָרֵי**, 'my words', should be added in their place. It concerns the words of the first person speaker in 22,17-21. This extra word is indispensable in order to repair the first colon by giving the verb **שָׁמַע** an object in line with and parallel to **לִדְעָתִי** in the second colon. The line after the heading should be read:

הִטְּ אָזְנוֹךָ וְשָׁמַע דְּבָרֵי וְלִבְךָ תִּשְׁמַע תְּשִׁית לְדַעְתִּי: "Incline your ear and hear *my words* and let your mind attend to *my knowledge*".

(Compare the New Revised Standard Version in contrast with most versions, which have "hear the words of the wise").

Further below I shall discuss the far-reaching numerical implications of the extra word for the structure of the text from 22,17 onwards. This correction has proved to be the key to ascertaining the original canonical text.

I shall also present a detailed outline of the overall architecture of the book based on the emended text.

However, let me first give an overview of the various views of the fourteen commentators I was able to consult.

B. GEMSER (*Sprüche Salomos*, in: HAT 16, 1927/1963², who has dedicated his scholarly life for a great deal to Wisdom):

I. 1-9: Einleitende Sammlung. 1,1-6; 1,7-9; 1,10-19; 1,20-33; 2,1-22; 3,1-12; 3,13-26; 3,27-30; 3,31-35; 4,1-9; 4,10-19; 4,20-27; 5,1-6; 5,7-14; 5,15-20; 5,21-23; 6,1-5; 6,6-11; 6,12-15; 6,16-19; 6,20-35; 7,1-5; 7,6-9; 7,10-13; 7,14-20; 7,21-23; 7,24-27; 8,1-11; 8,12-21; 8,22-31; 8,32-36; 9,1-6; 9,7-12; 9,13-18.

II. 10,1-22,16: Die Salomonische Sammlung. 10,1-20; 10,21-32; 11,1-16; 11,17-31; 12,1-19; 12,20-28; 13,1-14; 13,15-25; 14,1-35; 15,1-33; 16,1-17,20; 17,21-18,24; 19,1-29; 20,1-30; 21,1-31; 22,1-16.

III. 22,17-24,22: Erster Anhang zur Salomonischen Sammlung: Worte von Weisen. 22,17-29; 23,1-31; 24,1-22.

IV. 24,23-34: Zweiter Anhang zur Salomonischen Sammlung: Weitere Worte von Weisen. 24,23-34.

V. 25,1-29,27: Hiskianische Sammlung. 25,1-15; 25,16-28; 26,1-12; 26,13-28; 27,1-27; 28,1-19; 28,20-28; 29,1-18; 29,19-27.

VI. 30,1-14: Erster Anhang zur Hiskianischen Sammlung: Die Worte Agurs. 30,1-14.

VII. 30,15-33: Zweiter Anhang zur Hiskianischen Sammlung: Zahlensprüche. 30,15-33.

VIII. 31,1-9: Dritter Anhang zur Hiskianischen Sammlung: Die Worte von Lemuel. 31,1-9.

IX. 31,10-31: Vierter Anhang zur Hiskianischen Sammlung: Das Lob der tugendsamen Hausfrau. 31,10-31.

S. H. BLANK ("Proverbs, Book of", in: The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, Vol. 3, 936-940, 1962):

I. 1,1-7: Title page with advertisement and motto.

II. 1,8-9,18: Discourses and cautions.

III. 10,1-22,16: "Proverbs of Solomon," first collection.

IV. 22,17-23,14: "Sayings of the wise," first collection.

V. 23,15-24,22: More discourses and cautions.

VI. 24,23-34: "Sayings of the wise," second collection.

VII. 25,1-29,27: "Proverbs of Solomon," second collection ('which the men of Hezekiah...copied').

VIII. 30,1-33: "The words of Agur."

IX. 31,1-9: "The words of Lemuel."

X. 31,10-31: The good wife.

H. RINGGREN (*Sprüche / Prediger*, in: ATD 16/1, 1962):

1. 1-9 Einleitung. 1,1-7; 1,8-19; 1,20-33; 2,1-22; 3,1-12; 3,13-26; 3,27-35; 4,1-27; 5,1-23; 6,1-19; 6,20-7,27; 8,1-36; 9,1-18.
2. 10,1-22,16: Die erste Sammlung salomonischer Sprüche.
3. 22,17-24,22: Zwei Sammlungen von "Worte der Weisen".
4. 25,1-29,27: Neue Sammlung salomonischer Sprüche, von den "Männern Hiskias" zusammengestellt.
5. 30,1-33: Die Worte Agurs.
6. 31,1-9: Die Worte Lemuels.
7. 31,10-31: Ein alphabetisches Gedicht zum Lob der guten Hausfrau.

C. H. TOY (*The Book of Proverbs*, in: ICC, 1970):

- I. Chapters 1-9 A Series Discussions on the Excellence of Wisdom
- II. Chapters 10-22,16 Detached Aforisms
- III. Chapters 22,17-24,34 Second Collection of Aforisms
- IV. Chapters 25-27 and 28-29 More Proverbs of Solomon
- V. Chapters 30-31 Separate Collections of Sayings.

L. A. SNIJDERS (*Spreuken*, in: Tekst en Toelichting, 1984): *My translation*.

- I. 1-9: Introductory Section: Proverbs as book of wisdom.
- II. 10,1-22,16: First Collection.
- III. 22,17-24,22: Second Collection: Words of the wise.
- IV. 24,23-34: Third Collection: Other words of the wise.
- V. 25,1-29,27: Fourth Collection: Other proverbs of Solomon.
- VI. 30,1-33: Fifth Collection: The words of Agur.
- VII. 31,1-9: Sixth Collection: The words of Lemuel.
- VIII. 31,10-31: Seventh Collection: The stalwart wife.

O. PLÖGER (*Sprüche Salomos (Proverbia)*, in: BKAT XVII, 1984):

- I. 1-9: Erster Teil: Eine Sammlung von Mahnreden. 1,1-6; 1,7-33; 2,1-22; 3,1-12; 3,13-20; 3,21-26; 3,27-35; 4,1-27; 5,1-23; 6,1-19; 6,20-35; 7,1-27; 8,1-3; 8,4-11; 8,12-21; 8,22-31; 8,32-36; 9,1-6; 9,7-12; 9,13-18.
- II. 10,1-24,34: Zweiter Teil: Eine erste Sammlung von Sentenzen (10,1-22,16) und zwei Sammlungen mit Mahnworte (22,17-24,22 und 24,23-34). 10-21; 22,1-16; 22,17-24,21; 2,22-23,14; 23,15-35; 24,1-22; 24,23-34.
- III. 25,1-31,31: Dritter Teil: Eine zweite Sammlung von Sentenzen (25-29) mit Anhängen (30-31),
 25-27: Erster Unterteil. 28-29: Zweiter Unterteil.
 30-31: Die Anhänge: 30,1-14: Die Worte Agurs. 30,15-33: Zahlensprüche.
 31,1-9: Die Worte an Lemuel. 31,10-31: Das Gedicht auf die tüchtige Frau.

J. L. CRENSHAW ("*Proverbs, Book of*", in: The Anchor Bible Dictionary, V, 1992, 513-520):

1. 1,1-9,18 The Proverbs of Solomon, David's son, king of Israel.
2. 10,1-22,16 The Proverbs of Solomon.
3. 22,17-24,22 The Words of the Wise.
4. 24,23-34 These also belong to the Wise.
5. 25,1-29,27 These also are Proverbs of Solomon that the men of Hezekiah....transcribed.
6. 30,1-33 30,1-14: The words of Agur, son of Jakeh, the Massaite."
 30,15-33: Numerical Sayings (except vv 20 and 32-33).
7. 31,1-31 31,1-9: The words of Lemuel, king of Massa, with which his mother instructed him.
 31,10-31: An Acrostic poem on a virtuous woman.

R. N. WHYBRAY (*Proverbs*, in: New Century Bible Commentary, 1994):

- I. 1-9 Proverbs of Solomon
 - 1,1-7: Preface
 - 1,8-19: First instruction: avoidance of evil company
 - 1,20-33: Speech by Wisdom
 - 2,1-22: Second instruction: avoidance of the "strange woman"
 - 3,1-12: Third instruction: behaviour towards God
 - 3,13-18: The praise of Wisdom
 - 3,19-20: Wisdom and creation
 - 3,21-35: Fourth instruction: behaviour towards neighbours
 - 4,1-9: Fifth instruction: the importance of traditional wisdom

- 4,10-19: Sixth instruction: avoidance of evil company
- 4,20-27: Seventh instruction: the importance of vigilance
- 5,1-23: Eighth instruction: avoidance of the “strange woman”
- 6,1-19: Admonitions and warnings
- 7,1-27: Tenth instruction: avoidance of the “strange woman”
- 8,1-36: Speech by Wisdom
- 9,1-18: Wisdom and Folly
- II. 10,1-22,16 “Proverbs of Solomon” 10-22,16 - chapter arrangement, no subdivisions
- III. 22,17-24,22 “Sayings of the wise” - chapter arrangement
- IV. 24,23-34 “More sayings of wise men”
- V. 25-29 “More proverbs of Solomon transcribed by the men of Hezekiah - chapter arrangement, no subdivisions
- VI. 30,1-4 “Words of Agur”
- VII. 30,5-33 Miscellaneous sayings, a prayer, and numerical proverbs
- VIII. 31,1-9 “Words of King Lemuel
- IX. 31,10-31 A poem in praise of the “good wife”.

E. W. TUINSTRA (*Spreuken I*, Chapters 1-9, in: POT, 1996): *My translation of the headings*.

- I. 1,1-9,18: Introduction and title “The proverbs of Solomon”. 1,1-7; 1,8-19; 2,1-8; 2,9-11; 2,12-22; 3,1-12; 3,13-20.
- II. 10,1-22,16: Collection of 375 proverbs entitled “Proverbs of Solomon”.
- III. 22,17-23,14: Introductory verses and an Admonition.
- IV. 24,23-34: “These also are sayings of the wise”.
- V. 25,1-29,27: Collection of 138 “Proverbs of Solomon”, ‘which the men of Hezekiah...copied’.
- VI. 30,1-14: “The words of Agur, son of Jakeh.”
- VII. 30,15-33: Five numerical proverbs.
- VIII. 31,1-9: “The words of Lemuel, king of Massa, which his mother taught him.”
- IX. 31,10-31: An acrostic poem on the ideal wife.

R. E. MURPHY (*Proverbs*, in: WBC 22, 1998):

- I. 1,1-7; 1,8-0,18 Introductory Instructions (chapters)
- II. 10,1-22,16 The Proverbs of Solomon (chapters)
- III. 22,17-24,22 The Words of the Wise (chapters)
- IV. 24,23-34 The Words of the Wise (chapter)
- V. 25,1-29,27 The Proverbs of Solomon (chapters)
- VI. 30,1-14 The Words of Agur (chapter)
- VII. 30,15-33 Numerical Sayings (chapter)
- VIII. 31,1-9 The Words of Lemuel (chapter)
- IX. 31,10-31 The ideal Woman (chapter).

D. A. DORSEY (*The Literary Structure of the Old Testament*, Baker Academic: Grand Rapids, 1999, 187-191):

- a **Prologue** (1,1-7) title (1,1)
- b **Introduction** (1,8-9,18) begins “listen my son” (1,8)
- c **First collection of Solomonic proverbs** (10,1-22,16) title (10,1)
- d **Words of the wise** (22,17-24,34) title (22,17; cf. Septuagint; secondary title in 24,23)
- e **Second collection of Solomonic proverbs** (25,1-29,27) title (25,1)
- f **Words of Agur** (30,1-33) title (30,1)
- g **Words of Lemuel** (31,1-31) title (31,1).

L. G. PERDUE (*Proverbs*, in: Interpretation, 2000):

First Collection 1-9:

- 1,1: The Superscription; 1,2-7: Introduction: To Know Wisdom and Discipline
- 1,8-19: First Instruction: A Warning
- 1,20-33: First Poem on Woman Wisdom: Her Invitation to the Simple
- 2,1-22: Second Instruction:
- 3,1-12: Third Instruction: The Blessings of Wisdom and the Avoidance of the Strange Woman
- 3,13-20: Second Poem on Wisdom; Wisdom’s Gifts and the Role in Creation
- 3,21-35: Fourth Instruction: behaviour towards neighbours
- 4,1-9: Fifth Instruction: the Life of Wisdom Is Actualized in Charity and Uprightness
- 4,10-27: Sixth Instruction: The Two Ways
- 5,1-23: Seventh Instruction: Avoidance of the Strange Woman

6,1-19: Eighth Instruction: A Miscellany of Sapiential Teaching
 6,20-35: Ninth Instruction: Warning Against Adultery
 7,1-27: Tenth Instruction: Seduction by the Strange Woman
 8,1-36: Woman Wisdom: Wisdom as Teacher, Queen of heaven, Child of God
 9,1-18: Poem of Wisdom and Folly

Second Collection: “The Proverbs of Solomon” 10,1-22,16

10,1-15,33: First Subdivision
 16,1-22,16: Second Subdivision

The Third Collection: “The Sayings of the Wise” 22,17-24,22

22,17-23,11: First Instruction
 23,12-18: Second Instruction
 23,19-21: Third Instruction
 23,22-25: Fourth Instruction
 23,26-24,12: Fifth Instruction
 24,13-20: Sixth Instruction
 24,21-22: Seventh Instruction

The Fourth Collection: “These are Also Sayings of the Wise” 24,23-34

The Fifth Collection: “These are Other proverbs of Solomon that the Officials of King Hezekiah copied” 25-29

The Sixth Collection: “The Words of Agur” 30

The Seventh Collection: “The Words of King Lemuel of Massa, which his Mother Taught Him” 31,1-9

The Eighth Collection: “The Ideal Wise Woman” 31,10-31.

M. P. HORNE (*Proverbs-Ecclesiastes*, in: Smyth and Helwys Bible Commentary, 2003): “Eight collections of collections, each designated with its own heading” (p. 5). However, there are in fact *seven*: 1,1; 10,1; 22,17; 24,23; 25,1; 30,1; and 31,1.

1,1: 1,1-7: Proverbs with Purpose

1,8-19: Prosperity from Greed
 1,20-33: Wisdom’s Security
 2,1-22: The Teacher’s Syllabus
 3,1-12: Wisdom’s Absolute Surrender
 3,13-20: Wisdom’s Incomparability
 3,21-35: Wisdom for Community Life
 4,1-9: The Wisdom of Experience
 4,10-19: The Way of Life
 4,20-27: The Heart of Wisdom
 5,1-23: The Seduction of an “Other”
 6,1-19: An Interlude on Foolishness and Wickedness
 6,10-35: The Foolishness of Adultery
 7,1-27: The Parent’s Final Admonition on Adultery
 8,1-36: Woman Wisdom Comes Calling
 9,1-18: Feasting at Wisdom’s Table

10,1: 10,1-32: Righteousness and Wickedness

11,1-31: Justice for the Righteous
 12,1-28: Foundations for Success
 13,1-25: The Essentials of Education
 14,1-35: Wisdom in Public
 15,1-33: The Discipline of Reason and Religion
 16,1-33: The Center of the Universe
 17,1-28: Less Is More
 18,1-24: The Good Life and Its Social Context
 19,1-29: On Getting an Education
 20,1-30: Threats of the Good Life
 21,1-31: Wisdom and Wickedness
 22,1-16: The Profitability of Wisdom

22,17: 22,17-23,11: Between Rich and Poor

23,12-24,22: Between Envy and the Fear of God

24,23: 24,23-34: More Wise Words: The Court and Work

25,1: 25,1-28: Discriminating Kings, Courts, and Choices

26,1-28: What is a Fool?
 27,1-27: Focus on the Day's Work
 28,1-28: A Just Economy
 29,1-27: Society and Good Government

30,1: 30,1-33: Riddled with Questions

31,1: 31,1-31: A Woman's Wisdom.

B. K. WALTKE (*The Book of Proverbs, Chapter 1-15* in: NICOT, 2004, *Chapters 16-31*, in: NICOT 2005):

A. Introduction

B. Collection I: 1. Title with Preamble (1,1-7)

2. Prologue (1,8-8,36) and Epilogue (9,1-18)

A Rival invitations of the father and the gang to the son (1,8-10)

B Wisdom's rebuke of the gullible (1,20-33)

C Janus: The father's command to heed teaching as a safeguard against evil men and the unchaste woman

D The father's command to heed teaching (3,1-4,27)

D' The father's warnings against the unchaste wife (5,1-6,35)

C' Janus: The father's warnings against Wisdom's rival (7,1-27)

B' Wisdom's invitation to the gullible (8,1-36)

A' Rival invitations of Wisdom and the foolish woman to the gullible (9,1-18)

C. Collection II: Proverbs of Solomon (10,1-22,16 – brief discussion, pp.14-22)

D. Collection III: The Thirty Sayings of the Wise (22,17-24,22 – brief discussion, pp. 22-24)

E. Collection IV: Further Sayings of the Wise (24,23-34 – brief discussion, pp. 24-25)

F. Collection V: Solomon II (25,1-29,27 – brief discussion p. 25)

G. Collection VI: The Sayings of Agur Son of Jakeh (3,1-33 – brief discussion, pp. 26-27)

H. Collection VII: The Sayings of Lemuel (31,1-31 – brief discussion pp. 27-28).

The Book of Proverbs as a Numerical Composition

Whereas many Biblical books begin with an opening passage which is made up of a number of words that is a multiple of one of the divine name numbers **17** or **26**, the Book of Proverbs opens with an introductory passage, 1,1-6, consisting of **37** words (clearly demarcated by a **P**). See my article "[How a holy book begins and ends](#)". Guided by my intuition that 'wisdom' may be a key word, I computed the numerical value of חכמה, 'wisdom', and was not surprised to find that it was $8+11+13+5=37$. A closer examination brought to light that there are no less than twelve passages made up of **37** words (or its multiples), which run as stepping stones through the book as a whole, all of which were obviously devised as coherent groups of sayings:

- 1,1-6, the introduction to the theme of the book: **37** words.
- 1,15-19 a paternal exhortation: My son, stay clear of the way of sinners! **37** words.
- 3,21-35, a paternal exhortation concerning the best way of life: **111** (3×37) words.
- 6,27-35, on the dangers of having an extra marital affair: **74** (2×37) words.
- 11,22-31, on the wealth of the righteous and the wicked: **74** (2×37) words.
- 15,23-32 on considerate social behaviour: **74** (2×37) words.
- 22,7-16 on the treatment of the poor: **74** (2×37) words.
- 24,1-14, a recommendation of wisdom as a guide for leading a decent life: **111** (3×37) words.
- 25,1-13, comparisons and moral lessons at the beginning of the Hezekiah Collection: **111** (3×37) words.
- 29,18-27, general rules for keeping the law: **74** (2×37) words.
- 30,10-14, on slander and cursing: **37** words.
- 30,1-31,9, the sayings of Agur and Lemuel excluding the passage about the stalwart wife: **370** (10×37) words.

These features gain credibility in light of the fact that Ecclesiastes, the follow-up to Proverbs, has **222** (6×37) verses.

The observation concerning the number **37** in the introduction (including the heading) was to me the first indication that Proverbs is a carefully planned numerical composition. This supposition was immediately confirmed by the fact that the cognate key word, חכם, 'wise', appears most strikingly **102** times (6×17), which symbolizes the presence of God in all that is written in the book. But there is more, because the quantitative structural analysis has brought to light the following features which enable us to ascertain the structural design of the book with a great measure of certainty, as I shall demonstrate in more detail further below:

- Chapters 1-7, the introduction and the first collection, including the heading, have **1462** (86×17) words.
- 1,2-7,27, the introduction and the first collection, excluding the heading has **1456** (56×26) words.
- Chapters 1-29, the introduction and the major collections of proverbs have **6396** (246×26) words.
- Chapters 30-31, the minor collections: Words of Agur and Words of Lemuel, have **520** (20×26) words.
- Chapters 1-31, the Book of Proverbs as a whole, have **6916** (266×26) words.

All this shows that the book came into existence by a gradual accretion of materials: the author/redactor began with the heading and the introduction to the theme of the book (1,1-6), on which he imposed the stamp of 'wisdom' by means of **37** words. He continued his writing until 7,27, which he finalized and sealed (with and without the heading) by means of multiples of **17** (1,1-7,27) and **26** (1,2-7,27). Then he compiled the major collections, (8-29), which he rounded off by sealing the entire text of 1-29 as a distinct entity with 246×26 words. Finally, he completed the book by adding two minor collections (30-31), which he adapted and sealed by 20×26 words in order to achieve **6916** (266×26), by which he imposed the stamp of God's presence on the entire book.

This view of the coming into existence of Proverbs implies that we should abandon the idea of successive redactors and glossators that tampered with the text through the ages. In my opinion, there is no reason whatsoever to doubt that the book came into existence in a single, gradual compositional/redactional process despite the fact that chapters 1-29 was rounded off and sealed as a distinct structural entity.

By the way, additional evidence for the unity of 1-29 is provided by the **85** (5×17) occurrences of the key name YHWH which run through the 29 chapters as a unifying thread binding them together – see the table below. Also typical of 1-29 are the **26** cases in which the addressees are specifically identified. The words 'my son' or 'sons', also run as a red thread *specifically* and *only* through these 29 chapters to tie them together as a structural unit:

In 1-9: בִּנְי, 'my son' (1,8; 1,10; 1,15; 2,1; 3,1; 3,11; 3,21; 4,10; 4,20; 5,1; 5,20; 6,1; 6,3; 6,20; 7,1: **15x**).

בָּנִים, 'O sons' (4,1; 5,7; 7,24; 8,32: **4x**).

In 10-27: בִּנְי, 'my son' (19,27; 23,15; 23,19; 23,26; 24,13; 24,21; 27,11: **7x**).

For the use of the numerical value of a key word in the text, see the article in the [General Introduction](#).

Since the book of Proverbs has in its entirety been finalized and sealed by its **6916** (266x**26**) words, the author/redactor obviously did not endeavour to consistently create *additional* instances of the numbers **17** and **26** or their multiples in the smaller collections. In comparison with other books they appear in Proverbs only sporadically, about 40% of the words. Some of these may of course be coincidental, but 40 is still a relatively high percentage. Whatever the case may be, in all instances in which they were consciously intended they highlight the passages in question. See the table below, where the relevant passages are marked in bold face.

Here are some striking examples of highlighted passages.

- 2,1-8 with **51** (3x**17**) words.
- 6,1-11 with **78** (3x**26**) words.
- 6,12-26 with **119** (7x**17**) words.
- 8,4-36 with **238** (14x**17**) words spoken by Lady Wisdom.
- 8,4-36 + 9,10-12 with **260** words altogether spoken by Lady Wisdom.
- 10,1-32 with **234** (9x**26**) words.
- 12,3-16 with **102** (6x**17**) words.
- 12,17-23 with **52** (2x**26**) words.
- 17,16-28 with **104** (4x**26**) words.
- 18,13-24 with **85** (5x**17**) words.
- 19,21-29 with **68** (4x**17**) words.
- 20,1-13 with **102** (6x**17**) words.
- 22,10-16 with **52** (2x**26**) words.
- 23,12-35 with **182** (7x**26**) words.
- 25,1-14 with **119** (7x**17**) words.
- 26,7-11 with **34** (2x**17**) words.
- 26,13-19 with **51** (3x**17**) words.
- 27,3-9 with **52** (2x**26**) words.
- 27,19-22 with **34** (2x**17**) words.
- 28,17-22 with **52** (2x**26**) words.
- 29,1-27 with **204** (12x**17**) words.
- 30,1-17 with **170** (10x**17**) words.
- 30,1-28 with **260** (10x**26**) words.

The weaving of the name of God in this way into the fabric of the book is used as a tool to emphasize its religious character, because it signifies God's presence in this collection of Ancient Israel's wisdom sayings. Such numerical aspects of the book underscore the fact that it is primarily a *theological* writing. In fact, because all wisdom comes from YHWH, wisdom and religion/theology (that is to say, having faith in YHWH and living in obedience to him) are inextricably tied together, as expressed in the motto of the book (1,7a) and otherwise:

- 1,7a: *"The fear of YHWH is the beginning of knowledge"*,
- 2,5: *'understanding the fear of YHWH' and 'finding the knowledge of God' are indivisibly intertwined,*
- 9,10: *"The fear of YHWH is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is insight"*,
- 15,33: *"Wisdom's discipline is the fear of YHWH"*,
- 30,3: *'the learning of wisdom' and 'having knowledge of the Holy One' are indivisibly interconnected.*

Outline Based on the Headings, Layout Markers, and Numerical Features

Part I	1,1-7,27	Introduction and the Introductory Collection: P	1462 (86x 17) words
Part II	8,1-9,18	Lady Wisdom Contra her Rival Lady Folly: P	385 words
Part III	10,1-22,16	The Main Collection of Solomon's Proverbs: []	2806 words 6396 (246x 26)
Part IV	22,17-24,34	A Collections of Words of the Wise: P	648 words
Part V	25,1-29,27	The Hezekiah Collection of Solomon's Proverbs: P	1095 words
Part VI	30,1-33	Additional Collection, The Words of Agur: P	301
Part VII	31,1-31	Additional Collection, The Words of Lemuel: Col.	219 520 (20x 26) words.

The present arrangement of the text is so cogent that, in my view, it may be qualified as conclusive.

Detailed Quantitative Structural Analysis of the Book of Proverbs

Part I 1,1-7,27 Introduction and an Introductory Collection

It cannot be excluded that some of the passages with 17 or 26 or 37 words (or their multiples) are due to coincidence.

Vs	Texts	Words	Let.	יהוה	Sum w.	P	Structural Design
Intro		1,1-6					Introduction to the leading theme: wisdom
1	Pro. 1,1	6+	21		6		Proverbs is the wisdom book par excellence.
2	Pro. 1,2	6+	26		12		The key word חכם, 'wise', occurs altogether 102x (6x17).
3	Pro. 1,3	6+	27		18		The cognate key word חכמה, 'wisdom', occurs 37x, which
4	Pro. 1,4	6+	25		24		represents its numerical value: 37=8+11+13+5. The number
5	Pro. 1,5	7+	30		31		37 and its multiples are to be found 11x in the book.
6	Pro. 1,6	6/37	29/158		37	P	See page 4 above and the table below for particulars.
Section 1		1,7-33					Paternal exhortations and warnings
7	Pro. 1,7	8	34	1	45		§1 Do not consent when sinners entice you 1,15-19 My son, stay clear of the way of sinners! 37 words.
8	Pro. 1,8	8	27		53		
9	Pro. 1,9	7	29		60		
10	Pro. 1,10	6	20		66		
11	Pro. 1,11	9	34		75		
12	Pro. 1,12	6	30		81		
13	Pro. 1,13	7	24		88		
14	Pro. 1,14	7	30		95		
15	Pro. 1,15	8	29		103		
16	Pro. 1,16	7	28		110		
17	Pro. 1,17	8 37	26		118		
18	Pro. 1,18	5	23		123		
19	Pro. 1,19	9	28/362		132/95	P	
20	Pro. 1,20	6	26		138		§2 Exhortation to hear the call of Wisdom 1,20-22 Wisdom cries aloud in public to make her precepts known: 26 words.
21	Pro. 1,21	8 26	36		146		
22	Pro. 1,22	12	48		158		
23	Pro. 1,23	9	41		167		
24	Pro. 1,24	7	31		174		
25	Pro. 1,25	6	26		180		
26	Pro. 1,26	7	27		187		
27	Pro. 1,27	10	44		197		
28	Pro. 1,28	7	33		204		
29	Pro. 1,29	8	27	2	212		
30	Pro. 1,30	6	22		218		
31	Pro. 1,31	5	28		223		
32	Pro. 1,32	7	32		230		
33	Pro. 1,33	7/105	25/446		237/105	P	
27	Section 1	200	808		200		
Chapter 2		2,1-22					§3 Be attentive to wisdom and find knowledge of God
34	Pro. 2,1	7	25		244		2,1-8 The message is that God gives you wisdom: 51 words.
35	Pro. 2,2	6	27		250		
36	Pro. 2,3	7	26		257		
37	Pro. 2,4	5	27		262		
38	Pro. 2,5	7 51 (3x17)	27	3	269		
39	Pro. 2,6	7	26	4	276		
40	Pro. 2,7	6	25		282		
41	Pro. 2,8	6	26		288		
42	Pro. 2,9	8	30		296		
43	Pro. 2,10	7	27		303		
44	Pro. 2,11	5	23		308		
45	Pro. 2,12	6	26		314		
46	Pro. 2,13	6	26		320		
47	Pro. 2,14	6	27		326		
48	Pro. 2,15	5	30		331		

49	Pro. 2,16	6	30		337		
50	Pro. 2,17	7	31		344		
51	Pro. 2,18	8	29		352		
52	Pro. 2,19	8	31		360		
53	Pro. 2,20	7	32		367		
54	Pro. 2,21	7	29		374		
55	Pro. 2,22	6	30/610		380/143	P	
22	Chapter 2	143	610		143		
Chapter 3 3,1-35							
56	Pro. 3,1	7	26		387		§4 Remember my teaching and you will find favour
57	Pro. 3,2	8	31		395		
58	Pro. 3,3	11	40		406		
59	Pro. 3,4	7	27		413/33	P	
60	Pro. 3,5	9	29	5	422		§5 Fear YHWH, turn away from evil and reverence him
61	Pro. 3,6	6	26		428		
62	Pro. 3,7	9	30	6	437		
63	Pro. 3,8	5	25		442		
64	Pro. 3,9	7	29	7	449		
65	Pro. 3,10	6/42	30/169		455/42	P	
66	Pro. 3,11	8	30	8	463		§6 Happy is the person who finds wisdom
67	Pro. 3,12	10	32	9	473		
68	Pro. 3,13	7	27		480		
69	Pro. 3,14	7	28		487		
70	Pro. 3,15	8	29		495		
71	Pro. 3,16	6	28		501		
72	Pro. 3,17	6	27		507		
73	Pro. 3,18	7/59	29/230		514/59	P	
74	Pro. 3,19	7	29	10	521		§7 YHWH founded the universe by wisdom and knowledge
75	Pro. 3,20	6	29/58		527/13	[]	
76	Pro. 3,21	7	27		534		§8 How to lead a morally decent social life
77	Pro. 3,22	5	25		539		
78	Pro. 3,23	7	24		546		
79	Pro. 3,24	7	26		553		
80	Pro. 3,25	8	29		561		
81	Pro. 3,26	7	27	11	568		
82	Pro. 3,27	8	32		576		
83	Pro. 3,28	9	111 (3x37)	30	585		3,21-35 The paragraph is highlighted by 111 words.
84	Pro. 3,29	9	29		594		
85	Pro. 3,30	9	25		603		
86	Pro. 3,31	8	28		611		
87	Pro. 3,32	7	27	12	618		
88	Pro. 3,33	7	29	13	625		
89	Pro. 3,34	7	26		632		
90	Pro. 3,35	6	29/413		638/111	P	
35	Chapter 3	258	994		258		
Chapter 4 4,1-27							
More paternal exhortations							
91	Pro. 4,1	7	29		645		§9 Wisdom begins by getting wisdom
92	Pro. 4,2	8	27		653		
93	Pro. 4,3	8	27		661		
94	Pro. 4,4	9	35		670		
95	Pro. 4,5	10	32		680		4,3-9 Get wisdom, get insight, prize it highly: 52 words.
96	Pro. 4,6	5	52 (2x26)	22	685		
97	Pro. 4,7	8	32		693		
98	Pro. 4,8	5	25		698		
99	Pro. 4,9	7	28		705		
100	Pro. 4,10	8	28		713		
101	Pro. 4,11	6	29		719		
102	Pro. 4,12	8	27		727		

103	Pro. 4,13	8	27		735		
104	Pro. 4,14	8	29		743		
105	Pro. 4,15	7	26		750		
106	Pro. 4,16	11	36		761		
107	Pro. 4,17	7	25		768		
108	Pro. 4,18	9	35		777		
109	Pro. 4,19	7/146	27/546		784/146	P	
110	Pro. 4,20	6	25		790		§10 The exhortations will help you to go straight forward
111	Pro. 4,21	6	25		796		
112	Pro. 4,22	7	27		803		
113	Pro. 4,23	8	29		811		
114	Pro. 4,24	8	30		819		
115	Pro. 4,25	6	30		825		
116	Pro. 4,26	6	23		831		
117	Pro. 4,27	7/54	24/213		838/54	[]	
27	Chapter 4	200	759		200		
Chapter 5		5,1-23		Warning against the temptations of an adulteress			
118	Pro. 5,1	6	28		844		§11 Do not let her entice you with smooth words
119	Pro. 5,2	5	23		849		
120	Pro. 5,3	8	28		857		
121	Pro. 5,4	6	26		863		
122	Pro. 5,5	6	27		869		
123	Pro. 5,6	8/39	28/160		877/39	P	
124	Pro. 5,7	8	29		885		§12 Turn away from her and be faithful to your wife
125	Pro. 5,8	8	29		893		
126	Pro. 5,9	6	27		899		
127	Pro. 5,10	7	28		906		
128	Pro. 5,11	5	26		911		
129	Pro. 5,12	7	29		918		
130	Pro. 5,13	8	34		926		
131	Pro. 5,14	7	25		933		
132	Pro. 5,15	6	25		939		
133	Pro. 5,16	6	29		945		
134	Pro. 5,17	6	22		951		
135	Pro. 5,18	6	25		957		
136	Pro. 5,19	11	43		968		
137	Pro. 5,20	7	27		975		
138	Pro. 5,21	9	34	14	984		
139	Pro. 5,22	7	35		991		
140	Pro. 5,23	7/121	28/495		998/121	P	
23	Chapter 5	160	655		160		
Chapter 6		6,1-35		Warnings against dishonesty and the wiles of a harlot			
141	Pro. 6,1	7	24		1005		§13 Surety for a neighbour and a pledge for a stranger
142	Pro. 6,2	6	26		1011		
143	Pro. 6,3	13	44		1024		
144	Pro. 6,4	6	27		1030		
145	Pro. 6,5	6	24/145		1036/38	P	
146	Pro. 6,6	7	78 (3x26)	23	1043		§14 The ant as example for the sluggard
147	Pro. 6,7	6	19		1049		
148	Pro. 6,8	6	26		1055		
149	Pro. 6,9	7	24		1062		
150	Pro. 6,10	8	30		1070		
151	Pro. 6,11	6	25/147		1076/40	P	
152	Pro. 6,12	7	25		1083		§15 The fate of a scoundrel and a knave
153	Pro. 6,13	6	27		1089		
154	Pro. 6,14	8	29		1097		
155	Pro. 6,15	9/30	31/112		1106/30	P	

156	Pro. 6,16	7	26	15	1113	§16 Seven things that YHWH detests
157	Pro. 6,17	8	31		1121	
158	Pro. 6,18	8	33		1129	
159	Pro. 6,19	8/31	31/121		1137/31	P
160	Pro. 6,20	8	27		1145	§17 These warnings protect you from the evil woman
161	Pro. 6,21	7	25		1152	
162	Pro. 6,22	9	42		1161	
163	Pro. 6,23	9	34		1170	
164	Pro. 6,24	6	25		1176	
165	Pro. 6,25	7	29		1183	
166	Pro. 6,26	12/58	38/220		1195/58	P 6,12-26 (§§15-17) highlighted by 30+31+58=119 (7x17) w.
167	Pro. 6,27	7	29		1202	§18 The folly of yielding to the wiles of a harlot
168	Pro. 6,28	8	31		1210	
169	Pro. 6,29	10	28		1220	
170	Pro. 6,30	9	32		1229	
171	Pro. 6,31	8 74 (2x37)	29		1237	The paragraph is highlighted by 74 (2x37) words.
172	Pro. 6,32	8	28		1245	
173	Pro. 6,33	6	24		1251	
174	Pro. 6,34	8	27		1259	
175	Pro. 6,35	10	29/257		1269/74	P
35	Chapter 6	271	1002		271	
Chapter 7 7,1-27						The loose woman and her prey
176	Pro. 7,1	6	23		1275	§18 Wisdom gives the safest protection against a harlot
177	Pro. 7,2	6	29		1281	
178	Pro. 7,3	7	25		1288	
179	Pro. 7,4	7	27		1295	
180	Pro. 7,5	6	29		1301/32	[]
181	Pro. 7,6	6	25		1307	§18 The way a harlot tries to seduce her prey
182	Pro. 7,7	7	28		1314	
183	Pro. 7,8	7	25		1321	
184	Pro. 7,9	6	26		1327	
185	Pro. 7,10	7	27		1334	
186	Pro. 7,11	7	29		1341	
187	Pro. 7,12	8	29		1349	
188	Pro. 7,13	8 102 (6x17)	31		1357	7,6-20 The paragraph is highlighted by its 102 words.
189	Pro. 7,14	6	25		1363	
190	Pro. 7,15	7	29		1370	
191	Pro. 7,16	6	29		1376	
192	Pro. 7,17	5	22		1381	
193	Pro. 7,18	7	29		1388	
194	Pro. 7,19	7	26		1395	
195	Pro. 7,20	8	30		1403/102	[]
196	Pro. 7,21	6	26		1409	§19 The man follows her as an ox goes to the slaughter
197	Pro. 7,22	11	41		1420	
198	Pro. 7,23	13	40		1433/30	P
199	Pro. 7,24	7	28		1440	§19 Therefore, take the paternal warning seriously
200	Pro. 7,25	8	29		1448	
201	Pro. 7,26	7	29		1455	
202	Pro. 7,27	7	26		1462/29	P
27	Chapter 7	193	762		193	1,2-7,27 without the heading: 1456 (56x26) words.
202	Part I: 1-7	1462 (86x17)	5748	15x	1462	1,1-7,27 including the heading: 1462 (86x17) words.

Observation 2 Part I of the book was rounded off as a distinct literary entity and sealed by **1462 (86x17)** words. Interestingly, excluding the 6-word heading Part I has **1456 (56x26)** words. If this is not simply a matter of coincidence (which I doubt), it demonstrates the meticulous way the scribes counted the words they wrote. By means of the numerical features nine consciously intended collections of seemingly disparate sayings could be identified with a great measure of certainty.

Part II 8,1-9,18 Lady Wisdom Contra her Rival Lady Folly

Chapter 8		8,1-36		P		Lady Wisdom commends herself as teacher	
203	Pro. 8,1	6	24	יהוה	1468		§1 Lady Wisdom raises her voice and cries aloud
204	Pro. 8,2	7	29		1475		
205	Pro. 8,3	7	27/80		1482/20	⌈	
206	Pro. 8,4	7	27		1489		§2 Lady Wisdom’s call is directed to all men
207	Pro. 8,5	6	28		1495		
208	Pro. 8,6	7	31		1502		
209	Pro. 8,7	7	25		1509		
210	Pro. 8,8	8	26		1517		
211	Pro. 8,9	6	27		1523		
212	Pro. 8,10	7	27		1530		
213	Pro. 8,11	9	33		1539		
214	Pro. 8,12	7	29		1546		
215	Pro. 8,13	11	42	16	1557		
216	Pro. 8,14	7	25		1564		
217	Pro. 8,15	6	27		1570		
218	Pro. 8,16	7	26		1577		
219	Pro. 8,17	5	24		1582		
220	Pro. 8,18	6	22		1588		
221	Pro. 8,19	7	31		1595		
222	Pro. 8,20	6	26		1601		
223	Pro. 8,21	5	24		1606/124	P	
224	Pro. 8,22	7	29	17	1613		
225	Pro. 8,23	5	22		1618		
226	Pro. 8,24	7	33		1625		
227	Pro. 8,25	6	28		1631		
228	Pro. 8,26	8	28		1639		
229	Pro. 8,27	9	32		1648		
230	Pro. 8,28	6	28		1654		
231	Pro. 8,29	10	38		1664		
232	Pro. 8,30	11	45		1675		
233	Pro. 8,31	7	27		1682/76	P	
234	Pro. 8,32	7	28		1689		
235	Pro. 8,33	5	21		1694		
236	Pro. 8,34	12	42		1706		
237	Pro. 8,35	7	27	18	1713		
238	Pro. 8,36	7	26		1720/38	P	
33	8,4-36	238 (14x17)	954		238		
36	Chapter 8	258	1034	3x	258		
8,4-36 The words she cried out aloud: 238 (14x17).							
8,34-36 Happy is the man who listens to this call: 26 w.							
8,4-36 Wisdom’s call is sealed by 124+76+38=238 words.							
Until this point the text has been sealed by 238 verses.							
Chapter 9		9,1-18		P		Lady Wisdom contra Lady Folly	
239	Pro. 9,1	6	27		1726		§5 Lady Wisdom’s invitation to come and be her guest
240	Pro. 9,2	7	27		1733		
241	Pro. 9,3	7	26		1740		
242	Pro. 9,4	8	22		1748		
243	Pro. 9,5	6	25		1754		
244	Pro. 9,6	6	26		1760		
245	Pro. 9,7	8	28		1768		
246	Pro. 9,8	8	29		1776		
247	Pro. 9,9	8	31		1784/64	P	
248	Pro. 9,10	7	29	19	1791		
249	Pro. 9,11	8	29		1799		
250	Pro. 9,12	7	23		1806/22	⌈	
251	Pro. 9,13	7	27		1813		
252	Pro. 9,14	7	25		1820		
253	Pro. 9,15	5	25		1825		
§6 The person who accept her invitation will live long These 22 words are spoken by Lady Wisdom – cf. v. 11. See Observation 3.							
§7 The guests of Lady Folly will find themselves in Sheol							

254	Pro. 9,16	8	24		1833		
255	Pro. 9,17	6	27		1839		
256	Pro. 9,18	8	29		1847/41	P	The 7 paragraphs symbolize the idea of fullness.
18	Chapter 9	127	479	1x	127		Compare the note at 24,22.
54	Part II: 8-9	385	1513	4x	385		Part II: 8-9 is sealed by 1513 (89x17) letters
256	Parts I-II: 1-9	1847	7261	19x	1847		

Observation 3 The most striking feature of Chapters 8-9, dealing with the confrontation between Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly, is that Lady Wisdom speaks altogether **260 words: 238** (8,4-36) + **22** (9,10-12).

Part III 10,1-22,16 The Main Collection of Solomon's Proverbs

Chapter 10		10,1-32					P	The first collection of wise sayings Heading: The proverbs of Solomon
257a	Pro. 10,1a	2	8	ידוה	1849/2			
257b	Pro. 10,1b	8	25		1857			§1 Life is a choice between wisdom and folly
258	Pro. 10,2	7	30		1864			
259	Pro. 10,3	8	31	20	1872			The chapter is highlighted by 234 (9x26) words. This strongly suggests that it is a consciously intended collection of sayings belonging together.
260	Pro. 10,4	7	26		1879			
261	Pro. 10,5	8	29		1887			
262	Pro. 10,6	7	28		1894			
263	Pro. 10,7	6	24		1900			
264	Pro. 10,8	7	26		1907			
265	Pro. 10,9	7	27		1914			
266	Pro. 10,10	7	27		1921			
267	Pro. 10,11	8	29		1929			
268	Pro. 10,12	8	32		1937			
269	Pro. 10,13	8	29		1945			
270	Pro. 10,14	7	28		1952			
271	Pro. 10,15	7	26		1959			
272	Pro. 10,16	6	26		1965			
273	Pro. 10,17	7	30		1972			
274	Pro. 10,18	8	30		1980			
275	Pro. 10,19	8	31		1988			
276	Pro. 10,20	7	26		1995			
277	Pro. 10,21	8	34		2003			
278	Pro. 10,22	8	29	21	2011			
279	Pro. 10,23	7	31		2018			
280	Pro. 10,24	7	31		2025			
281	Pro. 10,25	7	29		2032			
282	Pro. 10,26	7	32		2039			
283	Pro. 10,27	7	33	22	2046			
284	Pro. 10,28	6	29		2052			
285	Pro. 10,29	7	27	23	2059			
286	Pro. 10,30	8	31		2067			
287	Pro. 10,31	7	29		2074			
288	Pro. 10,32	7	31		2081		⌈	
32	Chapter 10	234 (9x26)	934	4x	234 (9x26)			10,1-32 is finalized and sealed by its 234 words.
Chapter 11		11,1-31					P	The second collection of wise sayings §2 Righteousness the best guidance for a good life
289	Pro. 11,1	7	31	24	2088			
290	Pro. 11,2	7	27		2095			
291	Pro. 11,3	6	26		2101			
292	Pro. 11,4	8	31		2109			
293	Pro. 11,5	7	29		2116			
294	Pro. 11,6	6	29		2122			
295	Pro. 11,7	8	33		2130			
296	Pro. 11,8	6	24		2136			
297	Pro. 11,9	7	30		2143			
298	Pro. 11,10	7	31		2150			
299	Pro. 11,11	7	30		2157			

300	Pro. 11,12	7	27		2164		<p>§3 About the righteous and the wicked</p> <p>The paragraph is highlighted by 74 words.</p>
301	Pro. 11,13	8	30		2172		
302	Pro. 11,14	7	28		2179		
303	Pro. 11,15	8	26		2187		
304	Pro. 11,16	7	28		2194		
305	Pro. 11,17	7	26		2201		
306	Pro. 11,18	8	27		2209		
307	Pro. 11,19	6	24		2215		
308	Pro. 11,20	7	29	25	2222		
309	Pro. 11,21	8	27		2230		
310	Pro. 11,22	8	26		2238		
311	Pro. 11,23	7	28		2245		
312	Pro. 11,24	8	31		2253		
313	Pro. 11,25	7	25		2260		
314	Pro. 11,26	7	74 (2x37)		2267		
315	Pro. 11,27	7	27		2274		
316	Pro. 11,28	7	31		2281		
317	Pro. 11,29	8	29		2289		
318	Pro. 11,30	7	25		2296		
319	Pro. 11,31	8	26		2304/74	[]	
31	Chapter 11	223	869	2x	223		
Chapter 12		12,1-28		<p>The third collection of wise sayings</p> <p>§4 The behaviour of the righteous and the wicked</p>			
320	Pro. 12,1	7	25		2311		<p>12,3-16 Mainly about thoughts and words: 102 w.</p> <p>12,17-23 About tongues, lips, and the heart: 52 w.</p>
321	Pro. 12,2	7	30	26	2318		
322	Pro. 12,3	8	29		2326		
323	Pro. 12,4	7	32		2333		
324	Pro. 12,5	6	31		2339		
325	Pro. 12,6	7	27		2346		
326	Pro. 12,7	6	28		2352		
327	Pro. 12,8	8	29		2360		
328	Pro. 12,9	7	102 (6x17)		2367		
329	Pro. 12,10	7	31		2374		
330	Pro. 12,11	8	30		2382		
331	Pro. 12,12	7	27		2389		
332	Pro. 12,13	7	27		2396		
333	Pro. 12,14	10	33		2406		
334	Pro. 12,15	7	27		2413		
335	Pro. 12,16	7	28		2420		
336	Pro. 12,17	7	28		2427		
337	Pro. 12,18	7	30		2434		
338	Pro. 12,19	8	29		2442		
339	Pro. 12,20	7	52 (2x26)		2449		
340	Pro. 12,21	8	28		2457		
341	Pro. 12,22	7	30	27	2464		
342	Pro. 12,23	8	30		2472		
343	Pro. 12,24	6	25		2478		
344	Pro. 12,25	7	28		2485		
345	Pro. 12,26	6	25		2491		
346	Pro. 12,27	8	28		2499		
347	Pro. 12,28	7	26		2506	[]	
28	Chapter 12	202	794	2x	202		
Chapter 13		13,1-25		<p>The fourth collection of wise sayings</p>			
348	Pro. 13,1	8	23		2514		<p>13,1-7 The upright and the wicked: 52 words..</p>
349	Pro. 13,2	8	28		2522		
350	Pro. 13,3	8	27		2530		
351	Pro. 13,4	7	52 (2x26)		2537		
352	Pro. 13,5	7	29		2544		
353	Pro. 13,6	7	25		2551		
354	Pro. 13,7	7	25		2558		

355	Pro. 13,8	8+	25		2566		13,8-14 Again the upright and the wicked: 51 w.
356	Pro. 13,9	6+	25		2572		
357	Pro. 13,10	7+	26		2579		
358	Pro. 13,11	7+	23		2586		
359	Pro. 13,12	8+	30		2594		
360	Pro. 13,13	8+	27		2602		
361	Pro. 13,14	7/51 (3x17)	27		2609		
362	Pro. 13,15	7	24		2616		
363	Pro. 13,16	7	27		2623		
364	Pro. 13,17	7	27		2630		
365	Pro. 13,18	7	30		2637		
366	Pro. 13,19	8	34		2645		
367	Pro. 13,20	7	29		2652		
368	Pro. 13,21	7	28		2659		
369	Pro. 13,22	8	32		2667		
370	Pro. 13,23	8	27		2675		
371	Pro. 13,24	7	28		2682		
372	Pro. 13,25	7	28		2689	P	
25	Chapter 13	183	683	0x	183		
Chapter 14		14,1-35		The fifth collection of wise sayings			
373	Pro. 14,1	7	33		2696		
374	Pro. 14,2	7	31	28	2703		
375	Pro. 14,3	7	30		2710		
376	Pro. 14,4	8	30		2718		
377	Pro. 14,5	8	29		2726		
378	Pro. 14,6	7	25		2733		
379	Pro. 14,7	8	28		2741		
380	Pro. 14,8	7	31		2748		
381	Pro. 14,9	6	25		2754		
382	Pro. 14,10	8	29		2762		
383	Pro. 14,11	6	26		2768		
384	Pro. 14,12	8	29		2776		
385	Pro. 14,13	7	28		2783		
386	Pro. 14,14	7	27		2790		
387	Pro. 14,15	7	28		2797		
388	Pro. 14,16	7	27		2804		
389	Pro. 14,17	7	28		2811		
390	Pro. 14,18	6	28		2817		
391	Pro. 14,19	8	32		2825		
392	Pro. 14,20	7	26		2832		
393	Pro. 14,21	6	27		2838		
394	Pro. 14,22	8	29		2846		
395	Pro. 14,23	8	31		2854		
396	Pro. 14,24	6	27		2860		
397	Pro. 14,25	7	27		2867		
398	Pro. 14,26	7	29	29	2874		
399	Pro. 14,27	7	28	30	2881		
400	Pro. 14,28	8	28		2889		
401	Pro. 14,29	8	29		2897		
402	Pro. 14,30	7	27		2904		
403	Pro. 14,31	7	26		2911		
404	Pro. 14,32	6	25		2917		
405	Pro. 14,33	7	30		2924		
406	Pro. 14,34	6	25		2930		
407	Pro. 14,35	7	30		2937	⌈	
35	Chapter 14	248	988	3x	248		Chapter 14 is sealed by 988 (38x26) letters.
Chapter 15		15,1-33		The sixth collection of wise sayings			
408	Pro. 15,1	8	26		2945		
409	Pro. 15,2	8	34		2953		
410	Pro. 15,3	7	29	31	2960		

411	Pro. 15,4	8	27		2968		
412	Pro. 15,5	7	29		2975		
413	Pro. 15,6	7	27		2982		
414	Pro. 15,7	8	29		2990		
415	Pro. 15,8	7	32	32	2997		
416	Pro. 15,9	7	28	33	3004		
417	Pro. 15,10	7	26		3011		
418	Pro. 15,11	9	31	34	3020		
419	Pro. 15,12	9	26		3029		
420	Pro. 15,13	8	34 (2x17)	28	3037		
421	Pro. 15,14	8	31		3045		
422	Pro. 15,15	8	26		3053		
423	Pro. 15,16	8	30	35	3061		
424	Pro. 15,17	9	32		3070		
425	Pro. 15,18	8	30		3078		
426	Pro. 15,19	7	27		3085		
427	Pro. 15,20	8	26		3093		
428	Pro. 15,21	8	30		3101		
429	Pro. 15,22	7	30		3108		
430	Pro. 15,23	8	29		3116		
431	Pro. 15,24	8	33		3124		
432	Pro. 15,25	7	27	36	3131		
433	Pro. 15,26	7	30	37	3138		
434	Pro. 15,27	7	27		3145		
435	Pro. 15,28	8	74 (2x37)	31	3153		
436	Pro. 15,29	6	29	38	3159		
437	Pro. 15,30	8	31		3167		
438	Pro. 15,31	7	29		3174		
439	Pro. 15,32	8	32		3182		
440	Pro. 15,33	7	29	39	3189		
33	Chapter 15	252	961	9x	252		
441	Pro. 16,1	6	25	40	3195		
442	Pro. 16,2	8	30	41	3203		
443	Pro. 16,3	6	25	42	3209		
444	Pro. 16,4	8	28	43	3217		
445	Pro. 16,5	9	27	44	3226		
446	Pro. 16,6	8	31	45	3234		
447	Pro. 16,7	8	31	46	3242		
448	Pro. 16,8	7	27		3249		
449	Pro. 16,9	7	26	47	3256		
450	Pro. 16,10	8	26		3264		
451	Pro. 16,11	8	32	48	3272		
452	Pro. 16,12	8	68 (4x17)	31	3280		
453	Pro. 16,13	7	29		3287		
454	Pro. 16,14	7	27		3294		
455	Pro. 16,15	7	28		3301		
456	Pro. 16,16	9	34		3310		
457	Pro. 16,17	8	29		3318		
458	Pro. 16,18	7	27		3325		
459	Pro. 16,19	9	29		3334		
460	Pro. 16,20	8	32	49	3342		
461	Pro. 16,21	8	30		3350		
462	Pro. 16,22	7	30		3357		
463	Pro. 16,23	8	29		3365		
464	Pro. 16,24	8	30		3373		
465	Pro. 16,25	8	29		3381		
466	Pro. 16,26	8	25		3389		
467	Pro. 16,27	8	29		3397		
468	Pro. 16,28	7	31		3404		
469	Pro. 16,29	8	30		3412		

15,11-14 About hearts and minds: **34** words.

15,23-32 A distinct group sealed by **74** words.

See Chapter 16 which has also 33 vs. and 252 w.

The seventh collection of wise sayings

16,1-7 A group of **7** sayings tied together by a cluster of **7** occurrences of the name YHWH.

16,8-17 A group of sayings tied together by **68** w.

470	Pro. 16,30	8	32		3420		
471	Pro. 16,31	6	25		3426		
472	Pro. 16,32	8	31		3434		
473	Pro. 16,33	7	28	50	3441	[]	
33	Chapter 16	252	953	11x	252		See Chapter 15 which has also 33 vs. and 252 w.
Chapter 17		17,1-28		The eighth collection of wise sayings			
474	Pro. 17,1	9	30		3450		17,16-28 A distinct group having 104 words.
475	Pro. 17,2	9	36		3459		
476	Pro. 17,3	7	28	51	3466		
477	Pro. 17,4	10	32		3476		
478	Pro. 17,5	8	26		3484		
479	Pro. 17,6	7	31		3491		
480	Pro. 17,7	10	31		3501		
481	Pro. 17,8	10	35		3511		
482	Pro. 17,9	8	32		3519		
483	Pro. 17,10	6	24		3525		
484	Pro. 17,11	8	27		3533		
485	Pro. 17,12	7	27		3540		
486	Pro. 17,13	8	28		3548		
487	Pro. 17,14	8	34		3556		
488	Pro. 17,15	8	34	52	3564		
489	Pro. 17,16	9	31		3573		
490	Pro. 17,17	7	22		3580		
491	Pro. 17,18	9	29		3589		
492	Pro. 17,19	8	28		3597		
493	Pro. 17,20	9	33		3606		
494	Pro. 17,21	8	27		3614		
495	Pro. 17,22	8 104 (4x26)	27		3622		
496	Pro. 17,23	7	27		3629		
497	Pro. 17,24	8	29		3637		
498	Pro. 17,25	6	25		3643		
499	Pro. 17,26	9	32		3652		
500	Pro. 17,27	8	30		3660		
501	Pro. 17,28	8	30		3668	[]	
28	Chapter 17	227	825	2x	227		
Chapter 18		18,1-24		The ninth collection of wise sayings			
502	Pro. 18,1	6	26		3674		18,13-24 A distinct group having 85 words.
503	Pro. 18,2	8	30		3682		
504	Pro. 18,3	8	25		3690		
505	Pro. 18,4	9	31		3699		
506	Pro. 18,5	8	28		3707		
507	Pro. 18,6	7	31		3714		
508	Pro. 18,7	7	26		3721		
509	Pro. 18,8	7	30		3728		
510	Pro. 18,9	7	28		3735		
511	Pro. 18,10	8	27	53	3743		
512	Pro. 18,11	7	32		3750		
513	Pro. 18,12	8	29		3758		
514	Pro. 18,13	8	29		3766		
515	Pro. 18,14	8	31		3774		
516	Pro. 18,15	8	29		3782		
517	Pro. 18,16	7	28		3789		
518	Pro. 18,17	6	27		3795		
519	Pro. 18,18	6 85 (5x17)	31		3801		
520	Pro. 18,19	7	30		3808		
521	Pro. 18,20	8	31		3816		
522	Pro. 18,21	7	29		3823		
523	Pro. 18,22	7	25	54	3830		
524	Pro. 18,23	6	26		3836		
525	Pro. 18,24	7	25		3843	[]	

24	Chapter 18	175	684	2x	175		
Chapter 19		19,1-29	The tenth collection of wise sayings				
			§1 Wicked people will not go unpunished				
526	Pro. 19,1	8	30		3851		
527	Pro. 19,2	9	29		3860		
528	Pro. 19,3	8	29	55	3868		
529	Pro. 19,4	7	27		3875		
530	Pro. 19,5	8	29		3883		
531	Pro. 19,6	8	28		3891		
532	Pro. 19,7	13	43		3904		
533	Pro. 19,8	8	27		3912		
534	Pro. 19,9	7	27		3919/76	P	
			§2 Various wise sayings: a distinct collection				
535	Pro. 19,10	9	32		3928		
536	Pro. 19,11	8	29		3936		
537	Pro. 19,12	8	28		3944		
538	Pro. 19,13	8	29		3952		
539	Pro. 19,14	7	29	56	3959		
540	Pro. 19,15	6	25		3965		
541	Pro. 19,16	7	27		3972		
542	Pro. 19,17	7	25	57	3979		
543	Pro. 19,18	10	31		3989		
544	Pro. 19,19	9	28		3998		
545	Pro. 19,20	7	29		4005/86	[]	
			§3 Various wise sayings: a distinct collection				
546	Pro. 19,21	8	31	58	4013		
547	Pro. 19,22	7	24		4020		
548	Pro. 19,23	8	29	59	4028		
549	Pro. 19,24	9	30		4037		
550	Pro. 19,25	8	68 (4x17)		4045		The paragraph is a distinct group sealed by 68 w.
551	Pro. 19,26	7	25		4052		
552	Pro. 19,27	7	27		4059		
553	Pro. 19,28	8	30		4067		
554	Pro. 19,29	6	31		4073/68	[]	
29	Chapter 19	230	839	5x	230		
Chapter 20		20,1-30	The eleventh collection of wise sayings				
555	Pro. 20,1	9	26		4082		
556	Pro. 20,2	7	29		4089		
557	Pro. 20,3	7	27		4096		
558	Pro. 20,4	7	26		4103		
559	Pro. 20,5	8	31		4111		
560	Pro. 20,6	9	32		4120		
561	Pro. 20,7	6	102 (6x17)		4126		<u>20,1-13</u> A distinct collection sealed by 102 words.
562	Pro. 20,8	9	29		4135		
563	Pro. 20,9	6	25		4141		
564	Pro. 20,10	8	32	60	4149		
565	Pro. 20,11	9	31		4158		
566	Pro. 20,12	8	28	61	4166		
567	Pro. 20,13	9	29		4175		
568	Pro. 20,14	8	26		4183		
569	Pro. 20,15	8	28		4191		
570	Pro. 20,16	8	28		4199		<u>20,14-19</u> A group mainly about business: 75 w.
571	Pro. 20,17	8	28		4207		
572	Pro. 20,18	6	30		4213		
573	Pro. 20,19	8	32		4221		
574	Pro. 20,20	7	28		4228		
575	Pro. 20,21	6	28		4234		
576	Pro. 20,22	8	27	62	4242		
577	Pro. 20,23	8	31	63	4250		
578	Pro. 20,24	7	27	64	4257		
579	Pro. 20,25	7	26		4264		
580	Pro. 20,26	7	28		4271		

581	Pro. 20,27	8	25	65	4279		
582	Pro. 20,28	7	26		4286		
583	Pro. 20,29	6	27		4292		
584	Pro. 20,30	7	28		4299	⌋	
30	Chapter 20	226	844	6x	226		
Chapter 21 21,1-31							The twelfth collection of wise sayings
585	Pro. 21,1	11	34	66	4310		
586	Pro. 21,2	8	29	67	4318		
587	Pro. 21,3	6	25	68	4324		
588	Pro. 21,4	7	25		4331		
589	Pro. 21,5	8	30		4339		
590	Pro. 21,6	8	31		4347		
591	Pro. 21,7	7	27		4354		
592	Pro. 21,8	7	24		4361		
593	Pro. 21,9	9	31		4370		
594	Pro. 21,10	8	27		4378		
595	Pro. 21,11	8	30		4386		
596	Pro. 21,12	7	28		4393		
597	Pro. 21,13	9	30		4402		
598	Pro. 21,14	8	26		4410		
599	Pro. 21,15	7	30		4417		
600	Pro. 21,16	7	28		4424		
601	Pro. 21,17	9	32		4433		
602	Pro. 21,18	6	24		4439		
603	Pro. 21,19	7	28		4446		
604	Pro. 21,20	8	33		4454		
605	Pro. 21,21	7	28		4461		
606	Pro. 21,22	7	25		4468		
607	Pro. 21,23	6	24		4474		
608	Pro. 21,24	7	24		4481		
609	Pro. 21,25	7	28		4488		
610	Pro. 21,26	8	30		4496		
611	Pro. 21,27	7	27		4503		
612	Pro. 21,28	7	27		4510		
613	Pro. 21,29	8	30		4518		
614	Pro. 21,30	8	31	69	4526/227	P	This P does not have a delimiting function, for it serves to draw attention to the words in v. 31.
615	Pro. 21,31	6	28	70	4532/6	⌋	In terms of content, this verse stands alone, but it is structurally an integral part of Chapter 21.
31	Chapter 21	233	874	5x	233		
Chapter 22A 22,1-16							The thirteenth collection of wise sayings
616	Pro. 22,1	8	26		4540		
617	Pro. 22,2	6	22	71	4546		
618	Pro. 22,3	7	31		4553		
619	Pro. 22,4	7	28	72	4560		
620	Pro. 22,5	8	30		4568		
621	Pro. 22,6	11	34		4579		
622	Pro. 22,7	7	29		4586		
623	Pro. 22,8	7	29		4593		
624	Pro. 22,9	8	26		4601		
625	Pro. 22,10	7	26		4608		
626	Pro. 22,11	7 74 (2x37)	23		4615		22,7-16 Group about treatment of the poor: 74 w.
627	Pro. 22,12	7	27	73	4622		
628	Pro. 22,13	7	26		4629		
629	Pro. 22,14	8	28	74	4637		
630	Pro. 22,15	8	33		4645		
631	Pro. 22,16	8	29		4653/121	⌋	
16	Chapter 22A	121	447	4x	121		
375	Part III	2806	10695	55x	2806		

Observation 4 In this major collection 900 (32%) of the 2806 words are highlighted by **17** and **26**. Moreover, 222 (8%) of the 2806 words are governed by **37**, the numerical value of חכמה, 'wisdom'. By means of the numerical features fourteen consciously intended collections of seemingly disparate sayings could be identified.

Part IV 22,17-24,34 A Collection of Words of the Wise.

Section 1		22,17-24,22		P/S		The first section of the collection
632	Pro. 22,17	9 (corrected)	36	יהוה	4662	§1 A new exhortation to pay attention Read as proposed on p. 1 (one word added).
633	Pro. 22,18	9	33		4671	
634	Pro. 22,19	7	31	75	4678	
635	Pro. 22,20	6	25		4684	
636	Pro. 22,21	8	36		4692/39	
637	Pro. 22,22	10	29		4702	§2 Rules for considerate social behaviour 22,22-25 About the poor and friends: 34 words.
638	Pro. 22,23	8 34 (2x17)	29	76	4710	
639	Pro. 22,24	10	29		4720	
640	Pro. 22,25	6	25		4726	
641	Pro. 22,26	6	23		4732	
642	Pro. 22,27	8	28		4740	
643	Pro. 22,28	7	25		4747	
644	Pro. 22,29	11	48		4758/66	
645	Pro. 23,1	10+	33		4768	§3 About rich meals and wealth 23,1-2 Eating with a ruler: 17 words.
646	Pro. 23,2	7/17	23		4775	
647	Pro. 23,3	6	27		4781	
648	Pro. 23,4	5+	21		4786	
649	Pro. 23,5	12/17	47		4798/40	§4 On dining with bad people and land grabbing The paragraph is highlighted by 52 words.
650	Pro. 23,6	9	31		4807	
651	Pro. 23,7	13	40		4820	
652	Pro. 23,8	6	29		4826	
653	Pro. 23,9	8 52 (2x26)	29		4834	
654	Pro. 23,10	8	29		4842	
655	Pro. 23,11	8	25		4850/52	
656	Pro. 23,12	6	26		4856	§5 About discipline, beating, and temptations The paragraph is highlighted by 182 words.
657	Pro. 23,13	9	30		4865	
658	Pro. 23,14	6	25		4871	
659	Pro. 23,15	8	23		4879	
660	Pro. 23,16	5	28		4884	
661	Pro. 23,17	10	34	77	4894	
662	Pro. 23,18	7	23		4901	
663	Pro. 23,19	7	24		4908	
664	Pro. 23,20	7	24		4915	
665	Pro. 23,21	7	29		4922	
666	Pro. 23,22	9	30		4931	
667	Pro. 23,23	7	27		4938	
668	Pro. 23,24	8 182 (7x26)	28		4946	
669	Pro. 23,25	5	22		4951	
670	Pro. 23,26	7	26		4958	
671	Pro. 23,27	7	26		4965	
672	Pro. 23,28	7	28		4972	
673	Pro. 23,29	14	53		4986	
674	Pro. 23,30	6	26		4992	
675	Pro. 23,31	11	40		5003	
676	Pro. 23,32	5	24		5008	
677	Pro. 23,33	6	27		5014	
678	Pro. 23,34	7	26		5021	
679	Pro. 23,35	11	46		5032/182	
680	Pro. 24,1	8+	29		5040	§6 Diverse wise precepts and warnings
681	Pro. 24,2	7+	27		5047	
682	Pro. 24,3	5+	25		5052	

683	Pro. 24,4	7+	28		5059		24,1-14 A collection of guidelines for civilized behaviour highlighted by 111 (3x37) words.
684	Pro. 24,5	7+	23		5066		
685	Pro. 24,6	8+	33		5074		
686	Pro. 24,7	7+	29		5081		
687	Pro. 24,8	6+	23		5087		
688	Pro. 24,9	6+	23		5093		
689	Pro. 24,10	5+	19		5098		
690	Pro. 24,11	7+	28		5105		
691	Pro. 24,12	18+	62		5123		
692	Pro. 24,13	9+	27		5132		
693	Pro. 24,14	11/111 (3x37)	40		5143/111	P	§7 Final precepts and a last exhortation
694	Pro. 24,15	8	27		5151		
695	Pro. 24,16	8	31		5159		
696	Pro. 24,17	8	30		5167		
697	Pro. 24,18	8	32	78	5175		
698	Pro. 24,19	6	24		5181		
699	Pro. 24,20	8	27		5189		
700	Pro. 24,21	9+	30	79	5198		
701	Pro. 24,22	8/17	29		5206/63	S	
70	Section 1	553	2072	5x	553		24,21-22 Fear YHWH and the king: 17 words. The 7 paragraphs symbolize the idea of fullness. Compare the note at 9,18.
Section 2		24,23-34			P/S	The second section of the collection	
702	Pro. 24,23	8	28		5214		§1 Partiality in judging and how to get settled
703	Pro. 24,24	8	35		5222		
704	Pro. 24,25	6	30		5228		
705	Pro. 24,26	5	22		5233		
706	Pro. 24,27	9	36		5242/36	P	
707	Pro. 24,28	7	26		5249		§2 Revenge and once again the sluggard
708	Pro. 24,29	11	36		5260		
709	Pro. 24,30	10	30		5270		
710	Pro. 24,31	10	42		5280		
711	Pro. 24,32	7	30		5287		
712	Pro. 24,33	8	30		5295		
713	Pro. 24,34	6	26		5301/59	P	
12	Section 2	95	371	0x	95		
82	Part IV	648	2443	5x	648		

Observation 5 In Part IV 319 of the 648 words (49%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. With the help of the numerical features six consciously intended collections of disparate sayings could be identified. Moreover, 111 of the 649 words (17%) are emphasized by the number **37**.

Part V 25,1-29,27 Proverbs of Solomon copied by the men of Hezekiah.

714	Pro. 25,1	10		39	ידור	5311		§1 First collection of lessons and comparisons
715	Pro. 25,2	8		30		5319		
716	Pro. 25,3	8		30		5327		
717	Pro. 25,4	6		23		5333		
718	Pro. 25,5	7		26		5340		
719	Pro. 25,6	8		31		5348		
720	Pro. 25,7	12	111 (3x37)	42		5360		
721	Pro. 25,8	11		38		5371		
722	Pro. 25,9	8		24		5379		
723	Pro. 25,10	6		21		5385		
724	Pro. 25,11	8		31		5393		The paragraph is highlighted by 119 words, as well as by the 111 words of the greater part of it.
725	Pro. 25,12	9		30		5402		
726	Pro. 25,13	10		41		5412	P	
727	Pro. 25,14	8		32		5420/119	[]	
728	Pro. 25,15	8+		31		5428		
729	Pro. 25,16	7+		27		5435		§2 Second collection
730	Pro. 25,17	7+		26		5442		

731	Pro. 25,18	9+	31		5451		The paragraph is made up of 51 (3x17) words.
732	Pro. 25,19	8+	29		5459		
733	Pro. 25,20	12/51 (3x17)	36		5471/59	P	
734	Pro. 25,21	9	32		5480		§3 Four smaller collections <u>25,23-28</u> Three special collections: 51 words.
735	Pro. 25,22	9	30	80	5489		
736	Pro. 25,23	8+	33		5497		
737	Pro. 25,24	9/17	30		5506		
738	Pro. 25,25	9+	34		5515		
739	Pro. 25,26	8/17	30		5523		
740	Pro. 25,27	8+	28		5531		
741	Pro. 25,28	9/17	33		5540/69	[]	
28	Chapter 25	239	868		239		
742	Pro. 26,1	9	35		5549		§4 More moral lessons and comparisons <u>26,7-11</u> Five proverbs with comparisons: 34 words. <u>26,13-19</u> More comparisons: 51 words.
743	Pro. 26,2	9	32		5558		
744	Pro. 26,3	7	28		5565		
745	Pro. 26,4	9	28		5574		
746	Pro. 26,5	7	28		5581		
747	Pro. 26,6	8	30		5589		
748	Pro. 26,7	6	25		5595		
749	Pro. 26,8	7	29		5602		
750	Pro. 26,9	7 34 (2x17)	26		5609		
751	Pro. 26,10	7	26		5616		
752	Pro. 26,11	7	25		5623		
753	Pro. 26,12	7	29		5630		
754	Pro. 26,13	7	25		5637		
755	Pro. 26,14	7	24		5644		
756	Pro. 26,15	8	29		5652		
757	Pro. 26,16	6 51 (3x17)	25		5658		
758	Pro. 26,17	9	30		5667		
759	Pro. 26,18	5	23		5672		
760	Pro. 26,19	9	28		5681		
761	Pro. 26,20	8	31		5689		§5 Comparisons and some examples of deceit
762	Pro. 26,21	8	35		5697/157	P	
763	Pro. 26,22	7	30		5704		
764	Pro. 26,23	9	32		5713		
765	Pro. 26,24	6	27		5719		
766	Pro. 26,25	10	33		5729		
767	Pro. 26,26	6	26		5735		
768	Pro. 26,27	8	26		5743		
769	Pro. 26,28	8	29		5751/54	[]	
28	Chapter 26	211	794		211		
770	Pro. 27,1	10+	29		5761		§6 More moral lessons and comparisons <u>27,1-2</u> Two coherent proverbs: 17 words. <u>27,3-9</u> These seven seem to form a distinct collection: 52 words.
771	Pro. 27,2	7/17	25		5768		
772	Pro. 27,3	8	31		5776		
773	Pro. 27,4	8	31		5784		
774	Pro. 27,5	5	23		5789		
775	Pro. 27,6	6 52 (2x26)	31		5795		
776	Pro. 27,7	9	30		5804		
777	Pro. 27,8	8	30		5812		
778	Pro. 27,9	8	29		5820		
779	Pro. 27,10	16	56		5836		
780	Pro. 27,11	7	26		5843		
781	Pro. 27,12	7	28		5850		
782	Pro. 27,13	8	27		5858		
783	Pro. 27,14	9	35		5867		
784	Pro. 27,15	7	31		5874		
785	Pro. 27,16	6	24		5880		
786	Pro. 27,17	7	26		5887		
787	Pro. 27,18	7	28		5894		

788	Pro. 27,19	7		26		5901		27,19-22 Probably a distinct collection: 34 words.
789	Pro. 27,20	8	34 (2x17)	34		5909		
790	Pro. 27,21	7		28		5916		
791	Pro. 27,22	12		49		5928/177	P	
792	Pro. 27,23	7		25		5935		§7 How to run a farm and a household properly
793	Pro. 27,24	8		25		5943		
794	Pro. 27,25	7		30		5950		
795	Pro. 27,26	5		25		5955		
796	Pro. 27,27	8		36		5963/35	[]	25-27 The 7 paragraphs form a coherent whole.
27	Chapter 27	212		818		212		
Chapter 28		28,1-28		A collection of antithetic proverbs				
797	Pro. 28,1	7		29		5970		§1 The law keepers and those who forsake it
798	Pro. 28,2	9		34		5979		
799	Pro. 28,3	8		26		5987		
800	Pro. 28,4	8		32		5995/67	P	
801	Pro. 28,5	9+		34	81	6004		§2 Those who seek YHWH and those who don't
802	Pro. 28,6	8/17		30		6012		
803	Pro. 28,7	8		33		6020		
804	Pro. 28,8	7		34		6027		
805	Pro. 28,9	7+		28		6034		28,5-6 Understanding justice or doing evil: 17 w.
806	Pro. 28,10	10/17		43		6044		
807	Pro. 28,11	7		29		6051		
808	Pro. 28,12	8		35		6059		
809	Pro. 28,13	7		29		6066		28,9-10 The lawless or the honest: 17 words.
810	Pro. 28,14	8		31		6074		
811	Pro. 28,15	9	26	25		6083		
812	Pro. 28,16	9		38		6092/97	P	
813	Pro. 28,17	10		30		6102		§3 A collection of disparate proverbs
814	Pro. 28,18	7		30		6109		
815	Pro. 28,19	8	52 (2x26)	31		6117		
816	Pro. 28,20	8		31		6125		
817	Pro. 28,21	9		27		6134		28,17-22 A faithful or a miserly man: 52 words.
818	Pro. 28,22	10		32		6144		
819	Pro. 28,23	7+		28		6151		
820	Pro. 28,24	10/17		37		6161		
821	Pro. 28,25	8		29	82	6169		28,23-24 Group of two proverbs: 17 words.
822	Pro. 28,26	8		32		6177		
823	Pro. 28,27	8		33		6185		
824	Pro. 28,28	7		32		6192/100	[]	
28	Chapter 28	229		882	2x	229		
825	Pro. 29,1	8		31		6200		§4 Seventeen proverbs on people in authority
826	Pro. 29,2	8		32		6208		
827	Pro. 29,3	9		34		6217		
828	Pro. 29,4	7		32		6224		
829	Pro. 29,5	8		28		6232		This collection is emphasized by 130 (5x26) words.
830	Pro. 29,6	7		26		6239		
831	Pro. 29,7	8		26		6247		
832	Pro. 29,8	7		30		6254		
833	Pro. 29,9	10		34		6264		
834	Pro. 29,10	7		30		6271		
835	Pro. 29,11	7		30		6278		
836	Pro. 29,12	8		29		6286		
837	Pro. 29,13	8		33	83	6294		
838	Pro. 29,14	7		26		6301		
839	Pro. 29,15	8		31		6309		
840	Pro. 29,16	7		34		6316		
841	Pro. 29,17	6		27		6322/130	P	

842	Pro. 29,18	7+	27		6329		§5 General and concluding observations The proverbs in this paragraph are emphasized and sealed by 74 (2x37) words.
843	Pro. 29,19	8+	29		6337		
844	Pro. 29,20	7+	28		6344		
845	Pro. 29,21	6+	27		6350		
846	Pro. 29,22	8+	25		6358		
847	Pro. 29,23	7+	29		6365		
848	Pro. 29,24	9+	31		6374		
849	Pro. 29,25	7+	28	84	6381		
850	Pro. 29,26	7+	30	85	6388		
851	Pro. 29,27	8/74 (2x37)	32		6396/74	P	
27	Chapter 29	204 (12x17)	799	3x	204 (12x17)		Chapter 29 is sealed by 130+74=204(12x17) words.
55	Chapters 28-29	433	1681	5x	433		
138	Part V: 25-29	1095	4161	6x	1095		
851	Parts I-V	6396 (266x26)	24560	85x	6396		The emended text <u>1,1-29,27</u> has 6396 words.

Observation 6 By means of the numerical features of Part V no less than seventeen collections of seemingly disparate sayings could be identified with a great measure of certainty.

In addition, 606 of the 1095 words (55%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. Moreover, 185 (5x37) of the 1095 words (17%) are emphasized by the number **37**. The **37** words in 1,1-6 and the **74 (2x37)** in 29,18-27 form an inclusion, providing additional evidence that Chapters 1-29 constitute a consciously intended literary entity.

Another piece of evidence for the unity of 1-29 is the **85 (5x17)** instances of the name YHWH running as a unifying string through the text from the beginning until this point.

Finally, Chapters 1-29 are rounded off and sealed as a literary entity by its **6396 (266x26)** words, and to crown it all, by its **850 (50x17)** verses excluding the heading.

Part VI 30-1-33 The Words of Agur

Vs	Texts	Words	Let.	יהוה	Sum words	P	Structural Design
852	Pro. 30,1	10	42		6406		§1 Who has knowledge of the Holy One?
853	Pro. 30,2	8	25		6414		
854	Pro. 30,3	6	24		6420		
855	Pro. 30,4	24	73		6444		
856	Pro. 30,5	8	28		6452		
857	Pro. 30,6	8	28		6460/64	P	
858	Pro. 30,7	8	31		6468		§2 Let falsehood be far from me lest I deny God
859	Pro. 30,8	13	45		6481		
860	Pro. 30,9	12	49	86	6493/33	P	
861	Pro. 30,10	8	27		6501		§3 There are those who behave maliciously 30,10-14 (§3) About slander and cursing: 37 words.
862	Pro. 30,11	7	23		6508		
863	Pro. 30,12	6	24		6514		
864	Pro. 30,13	6	25		6520		
865	Pro. 30,14	10	51		6530/37	P	
866	Pro. 30,15	13	45		6543		§4 Three or four things that never say "Enough" 30,1-17 (§§1-4) Altogether 64+33+37+36=170 words.
867	Pro. 30,16	11	35		6554		
868	Pro. 30,17	12	47		6566/36	P	
869	Pro. 30,18	7	29		6573		§5 Three or four things that are too wonderful
870	Pro. 30,19	14	48		6587		
871	Pro. 30,20	11	40		6598/32	P	
872	Pro. 30,21	9	31		6607		§6 Three or four things that are unbearable
873	Pro. 30,22	8	26		6615		
874	Pro. 30,23	8	30		6623/25	P	
875	Pro. 30,24	7	29		6630		§7 Four things that are exceedingly wise 30,1-28 (§§1-7) Altogether 170+32+25+33=260 words.
876	Pro. 30,25	7	26		6637		
877	Pro. 30,26	7	27		6644		
878	Pro. 30,27	6	21		6650		
879	Pro. 30,28	6	27		6656/33	P	

880	Pro. 30,29	7	30		6663		§8 More remarkable things and wise observations
881	Pro. 30,30	7	25		6670		
882	Pro. 30,31	7	27		6677		
883	Pro. 30,32	7	24		6684		
884	Pro. 30,33	13	46		6697/41	P	
33	Part VI: 30	301	1108	1x	301		

Observation 7 Verses 1-17 have altogether **170** words; verses 1-28 have altogether **260** words (86%).

Part VII 31,1-31 The Words of Lemuel..., which his Mother taught him

Vs	Texts	Words	Let.	יהוה	Sum words	P	Structural Design
885	Pro. 31,1	7	26		6704		§1 A queen mother's wise advice to her son
886	Pro. 31,2	8	23		6712		
887	Pro. 31,3	7	30		6719		
888	Pro. 31,4	10	40		6729		
889	Pro. 31,5	9	31		6738		
890	Pro. 31,6	6	22		6744		
891	Pro. 31,7	7	27		6751		
892	Pro. 31,8	8	24		6759		
893	Pro. 31,9	7	25		6766/69	P	
894	Pro. 31,10	7	27		6773		§2 A stalwart wife is more precious than jewels For אִשְׁת־חַיִל, which occurs also in 12,4, and the acrostic, see Claire Gottlieb's article, pp. 282-291, cited above on p. 4. In the book of Ruth (3,11) it is used of Ruth as the אִשְׁת־חַיִל par excellence.
895	Pro. 31,11	7	21		6780		
896	Pro. 31,12	7	23		6787		
897	Pro. 31,13	6	25		6793		
898	Pro. 31,14	6	27		6799		
899	Pro. 31,15	8	34		6807		
900	Pro. 31,16	7	27		6814		
901	Pro. 31,17	5	25		6819		
902	Pro. 31,18	8	26		6827		
903	Pro. 31,19	6	26		6833		
904	Pro. 31,20	6	26		6839		
905	Pro. 31,21	9	30		6848		
906	Pro. 31,22	6	25		6854		
907	Pro. 31,23	7	28		6861		
908	Pro. 31,24	6	28		6867		
909	Pro. 31,25	6	25		6873		
910	Pro. 31,26	7	27		6880		
911	Pro. 31,27	7	30		6887		
912	Pro. 31,28	5	24		6891		
913	Pro. 31,29	8	27		6900		
914	Pro. 31,30	9	33	87	6909		
915	Pro. 31,31	7	31		6916/150	P	
22	31,10-31	150	595		150		31,10-31 is sealed by 595 (35x17) letters.
31	31,1-31	219	843	1x	219		
64	30-31	520 (20x26)	1951	2x	520		Parts VI-VII are sealed by 301+219=520 words.
202	25-31	1615 (95x17)	6112		1615 (95x17)		Parts V-VII are sealed by 1615 words.
915	1-31	6916 (266x26)	26511	87x	6916		The book is sealed by 6916 words (emended text).

Observation 8 Strikingly, the 'Words of Agur' and (a part of) the 'Words of Lemuel' in 30,1-31,9, have altogether **370 (10x37) words**, that is to say, excluding the passage about the stalwart wife (31,10-31). This may seem strange, but the exclusion of the passage can easily be explained from a numerical perspective. It had necessarily to be left out, because its **150** words were needed to bring the total number of words in 30-31 to **520 (20x26)** and those of the book in its entirety to **6916 (266x26)**. The deliberate use of 10x **37** words, which is the numerical value of the key word חִכְמָה, can be explained as a scribal technique to bring also the words of Agur and Lemuel under the caption 'wisdom'. The same applies to the **222 (6x37)** verses of Ecclesiastes.

I owe thanks to Klaas Eikelenboom for his constructive suggestions and for having controlled my work.